

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for tracking printed articles, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 2 reading input indicating that a first carrier is being mounted to take up printed
 - 3 articles;
 - 4 reading in an ID of the first carrier;
 - 5 making a record associating the printed articles with the first carrier.
- 1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of reading in an ID of the first carrier comprises the sub-step of:
 - 3 reading a bar code of the first carrier.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading in a code indicating that a carrier is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:
 - 3 reading a bar code indicating mounting of a carrier.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:
 - 3 reading input indicating that a spool is being mounted to take up a web including printed articles.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
 - 2 reading input indicating that the spool is being mounted to supply the web to a web fed line.

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1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:
2 reading input indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up a sub web from the
3 web fed line; and
4 making a record associating content of the sub web with the reel.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted to supply the printed
3 articles, and
4 reading in the first carrier ID.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
2 reading in input indicating that a second carrier is being mounted to received the
3 printed articles; and
4 making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier.

1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of reading input indicating that the first carrier
2 is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:
3 reading a bar code indicating mounting.

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1 10. A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for tracking
2 printed articles as they are generated and transferred from a first carrier to a second carrier
3 in the course being produced, the computer readable medium including programming
4 instructions for:

5 reading input indicating that a first carrier is being mounted to take up printed
6 articles;

7 reading and ID of a first carrier ID; and

8 making a record associating the printed articles with the first carrier.

1 11. The computer readable medium according to claim 10 further including
2 programming instruction for:

3 reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted to supply the printed
4 articles, and

5 reading in the first carrier ID.

1 12. The computer readable medium according to claim 11 further including
2 programming instruction for:

3 reading in input indicating that a second carrier is being mounted to received the
4 printed articles; and

5 making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier.

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1 13. A system for producing custom printed articles comprising:
2 a printer;
3 a computer system electrically coupled to the printer the information processing
4 system including:

5 means for receiving information indicating that a spool is being mounted to
6 take up a web of printed articles output by the printer; and
7 means for receiving information identifying the spool.

1 14. The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information
2 indicating that a spool is being mounted includes:

3 a bar code reader.

1 15. The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information
2 identifying the spool includes:

3 a bar code reader.

1 16. The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information
2 indicating that a spool is being mounted includes:

3 a client computer.

1 17. The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information
2 identifying the spool includes:

3 a client computer.

1 18. The system according to claim 13 further comprising:

2 means for making a record associating the printed articles with the spool.

1 19. The system according to claim 13 further comprising:

2 a slitter for slitting the web into a plurality of sub webs.

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- 1 20. The system according to claim 19 further comprising:
 - 2 means for receiving information indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up
 - 3 a sub web of printed articles from the spool.

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